



CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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SUBJECT: Implementation of Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) Protection Guidelines

In April 2011, the National Institute of Standards and Technology issued Special Publication (SP) 800-147, "BIOS Protection Guidelines." The SP recommends minimum requirements for preventing the unauthorized modification of BIOS firmware on personal computer (PC) client systems, including desktops and laptops. Leading computer manufacturers are beginning to implement BIOS protections as part of their standard product line.

To ensure the security of DoD information systems, including those designated as national security systems, specifications for PC client systems in solicitations issued after January 1, 2012 shall include a requirement for BIOS protections compliant with Section 3.1, "Security Guidelines for System BIOS Implementations" of SP 800-147. Prior to January 1, 2012, it is recommended that specifications for PCs include requirements for BIOS protections compliant with Section 3.1 of SP 800-147 to the maximum extent practical. Technical compliance with these requirements affects only the BIOS to operating system interfaces and will not adversely affect the interoperability or the security of the network to which this device is connected.

This office will include compliance with Section 3.1, "Security Guidelines for System BIOS Implementations" and Section 3.2, "Recommended Practices for BIOS Management" of SP 800-147 as a part of the revision of DoD Instruction 8500.2 "Information Assurance (IA) Implementation" currently underway and expected to be published in January 2012.

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